

HOLMES ROAD (off Arnold Road)

41. William H. Anthony House (c. 1845): A 1½-story, gable-roofed, Greek Revival double house with a handsome doorway enframement and side lights. It has been enlarged and altered by side additions and large shed dormers. The property of William H. Anthony in 1851, the house originally overlooked the Rope Walk.

42. WASHINGTON

Located on the Flat River in eastern Coventry, Washington was first settled in the 17th century, but was burned out during King Philip's War of 1675-1676. It was the site of several gristmills, fulling mills and sawmills run by the Brayton family in the 18th century, and the area became known as Brayton's Mills or Braytontown. The oldest surviving building is the Paine House, built in 1748 by Francis Brayton, and used as a tavern for over a century. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In 1810, when the Washington Manufacturing Company was established here, the village became known as Washington. Coventry's largest and most prosperous village during the 19th century, Washington could boast as many as six different industrial enterprises at one time, including woolen mills, machine shops and mills making yarns and carpet warps. Although some of the small mill houses, dating back to the establishment of the Washington Company, still stand, the last mill here was demolished in 1935. This makes Washington unusual: with no mills left standing and its main street now a major through road, the village tends to blend in with its neighbors, Anthony and Quidnick. Washington was located on the Hartford, Providence and Fishkill Railroad, and the railroad company built a station, engine house, freight house, water tank and round house here, making it an important railroad center for the Pawtuxet Valley. Unfortunately, none of the railroad buildings survive. Due to its prosperity during two centuries, Washington incorporates a variety of architectural styles. It presents a well kept village streetscape along Main, South Main and Wood streets. Washington had the first post office in Coventry, and has been the governmental center of the township since the erection of the Town Clerk's Office in 1881.

CADY STREET

- 42-A. Schoolhouse (1844): A 3-room, 1-story, gable-roofed, school building with a pedimented end gable, closed oculus and a square belfry. Separate, projecting, enclosed entrances for boys and girls exist at either side of the building. The building has been recently acquired by the Coventry Historical Society; plans call for its conversion for use as a local museum.

FLAT RIVER ROAD-Route 117

- 42-B. Mill Houses (c. 1812): A row of six, 1½-story, gable-roofed mill houses built for workers at the Washington Company mills.

Abbots Crossing Farmstead (c. 1885): A 1½-story, Late Victorian farmhouse and two barns, all decorated with plain and cut shingles. This farmstead marks the western boundary of Washington, where the village gives way to the agricultural hinterland.

FRANCIS STREET

- 42-D. S. F. Richmond House (4 Francis Street: c. 1880): A 2½-story, Late Victorian gable-roofed, 2-family dwelling with a bracketed cornice and an elaborate door hood and 1-story side wings. It was the property of S. F. Richmond, owner of the Richmond Marble Works, in 1895.
- 42-E. House (15 Francis Street ): A 1½-story, gable-roofed, Late Victorian cottage, set gable end to the street. Paired brackets delineate the cornice lines of the roof, side porch and pedimented door hood.

MAIN STREET

- 42-F. House (28-30 Main Street): A 2½-story, gable-roofed, Greek Revival dwelling, Victorianized by the addition of a bracketed side bay window and an ornate attached open front porch, using pierced-work ornament.
- 42-G. Town House (75 Main Street; 1941): The present Coventry Town House was built in the town's bicentennial year. It is a 1½-story, brick, public building in "Colonial" style.
- 42-H. Washington United Methodist Church (81 Main Street; c. 1831): A large, frame, gable-roofed, Greek Revival church, set gable end to the street. It has a square belfry, topped by a weather vane, and a small, gabled portico entry. Built as a First Congregational Church, it changed to a Methodist affiliation during the latter half of the 19th century. Its design appears to have been modified at that time.
- 42-I. Houses (120-22, 124 Main Street): Two 18th-century houses, almost hidden in the bustle of 20th-century Main Street. The first is a small, 3-bay, 2½-story dwelling with a gable roof and large center chimney. The second, is a 1½-story cottage (built c. 1740), with a gable roof and a center chimney; its entrance has been moved to the gable end.
- 42-J. Post Office (175 Main Street; 1965): Washington was the site of Coventry's first post office. This building, built of brick in a modern "Colonial" idiom, is now the town's main post office.

- 42-K. House (220 Main Street): An Early Victorian, 2-story, 3-bay, square house with a hip roof.

#### MAPLE AND PEARL STREETS

- 42-M. J. Johnson Houses: Two, almost identical, Late Victorian, 1½-story, gable-roofed houses with the end gables decorated with modillions; the window enframements are elaborately decorated with cookie-cutter trim; the porches are similarly detailed. J. Johnson (who ran a general store) owned both these properties in 1895.

#### PARK STREET

- 42-N. Dr. F. B. Smith House (2 Park Street): Originally a Greek Revival, 2½-story, gable-roofed house, it was remodeled in the late 19th century with the addition of a front porch, 2-story side bay windows and a 3½-story, gable-roofed square tower with a bracketed cornice, bargeboards, tower dormers and a finial. The property of Dr. F. B. Smith in 1895, local inhabitants still refer to the building as Dr. Smith's House. It has been converted to apartments.

#### SOUTH MAIN AND WOOD STREETS

- 42-O. Streetscape: Both these side streets present a homogeneous streetscape of 18th- and 19th-century residential buildings in a variety of styles, but similar in scale, well kept and preserving the village quality of residential life.
- 42-P. House (347 South Main Street; c. 1845): A 1½-story, gable-roofed, Greek Revival house with a Victorian porch and side addition. This house is all that remains of "Spring Lake"--located one mile south of the center of Washington on South Main Street. First known as "Whitman's Factory," and then Spring Lake, it was the site of an early carpet warp mill, which became part of the Peckham manufacturing empire in 1865, producing Spring Lake blue jeans.

#### STATION STREET

- 42-Q. Paine House (1748): Built by Francis Brayton, the largest land holder here, who also ran the gristmill, sawmill and fulling enterprises at what was then called "Braytontown." The house is a large 2½-story shingled building with a central chimney and an eccentric "saltbox" roof profile. Used as a tavern by 1785, it was first known as the Brayton Tavern and then, in the 19th century, as the Holden Tavern. Named for its last occupants, the Paire House was given to the Western Rhode Island Civic Historical Society in 1953 by Mrs. Zilpha W. Foster and is now used as a house museum. A schoolroom was run at one time within the building, and this has been restored, displaying school memorabilia from Coventry, including a desk from the Hopkins Hollow School

and the bell from the Rice City School. It is the oldest building in the village and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

- 42-R. Town Clerk's Office (1881): A Late Victorian, 1-story brick, public building with a gable roof, set gable end to the main street, with a corbelled brick cornice, set on a granite foundation, and using granite trim. The facade fenestration has been changed; large plate-glass picture windows have been installed and the doorway has been moved. Most recently, the brick was painted with bright red high gloss paint. The building is now used as a fire alarm station.

#### STRUCTURES AND SITES OUTSIDE VILLAGE CENTERS AND DISTRICTS

##### ANDREWS ROAD off Weaver Hill Road

43. Andrews House and Cemetery Number Thirty-one: A 1½-story, gable-roofed, mid-19th-century farmhouse with a 1-story side ell, a barn and outbuildings. Foundations of an earlier house exist on the property as well as the family cemetery which is surrounded by an enclosure made of smooth round stones.

##### BOWEN HILL ROAD

44. House: A 2½-story, Federal style dwelling with rear and side ells; it is gable-roofed and has a new exterior chimney.
45. House: A much altered but probably 18th-century, 1½-story dwelling with a gambrel roof.

##### COLVINTOWN ROAD

Located north of the village of Washington, and stretching to the Scituate town line, this area has always been a rural farming district, named for the Colvin family, some of whom still reside here. The area was not isolated, as the Colvintown Road was frequently used for travelling north from Washington to the Hope Furnace. The settlement was prosperous enough to support a school (no longer standing) in the 19th century.

46. Willow Rock Farm and Cemetery Number Fifty-Three: An early 19th-century, 1½-story farmhouse with side wings and a gable roof with shed dormers, set well back from the road. It was owned by the Johnson family as early as 1851. The family cemetery is located near the roadside.

47. Site of Burlingame Farm and Cemetery Number Fifty-four: Settled before 1745 by the Burlingame family, the present farm complex comprises several houses (one--Greek Revival one--modern) and a large handsome barn with a cupola and weather vane. The Burlingame family cemetery dates from the 18th through the 19th century and is located on the property.

48. Nichols House: A large early 19th-century, gable-roofed double house with two interior chimneys. Transom lights are the only ornamentation on the plain doorways. Map references show this building to have been the property of a Colonel Nichols as early as 1851.

#### FISH HILL ROAD

49. House (c. 1840): A 1½-story, gable-roofed, Greek Revival house, articulated with paneled pilaster corner boards, a plank cornice and an entablature and flanking pilasters forming the entrance.

#### FLAT RIVER ROAD (Route 117)

50. Read Schoolhouse (1831): A 1-room schoolhouse with a gable roof, set gable end to the road. Two center doors at the gable end provided separate entrances for boys and girls. Built on land donated by the Read family, it was the last 19th-century Coventry schoolhouse in operation; it closed in 1951. It has since been restored and is the headquarters of the Coventry Historical Society. The finest example of an early 19th-century schoolhouse in mint condition in Coventry, it has been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
51. Houses (c. 1820): Two virtually identical, early 19th-century  
52. houses, 1½-stories, gable-roofed with center chimneys, they have 5-bay facades with central doorways. The flat-topped doorways are simple, vernacular expressions of folk art, with flanking fluted pilasters capped by a broken frieze, the central portion of which is a 5-light transom. Flanking the transom are unusual tree motifs cut into the door casings.
53. Thomas Arnold House, Cemetery Number Forty-Two and Ruins of the Arnold Acid Factory (c. 1826): Thomas Arnold came to Coventry in 1826 from Warwick, having inherited a farm here from his father. He built a house and an acid factory on the property. The house, a simple 2½-story Greek Revival building with later additions including a large gable dormer and a side addition, has pilaster corner boards and a columned portico entrance. The Acid Factory was in operation for fifty years, producing acid from wood, used in the making of calico. The ruins of this early industrial complex are a visual landmark, set on high ground, with the family cemetery nearby. The ruins stand as important relics of a

forgotten industry. The site has been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

54. Read House (c. 1825): A 1½-story, gable-roofed, Greek Revival house made of stuccoed rubble stone. Built in the early 19th century by the Read family, for whom the surrounding school district was named.

HARKNEY HILL ROAD

55. Maple Root Baptist Church (1797): A simple, 2½-story, frame meetinghouse. The projecting, enclosed entryway is a 20th-century addition. Organized in 1762, this became the largest and most important of the Six Principle Baptist congregations in Coventry. This is the second building on the site. Adjacent and opposite are the two cemeteries associated with the church. In continuous use since 1797, it has been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
56. Coventry Pines Golf Clubhouse (1838): A 2½-story, gable-roofed, center-chimney, 5-bay, Greek Revival dwelling; with paneled, pilaster corner boards, a plank cornice and window enframements embellished with a Greek fret motif. The central doorway has side lights and a projecting pedimented portico.
57. Houses: Two, 2½-story, gable-roofed, Greek Revival houses, raised on a high brick basement and joined together, and a shell of a late 19th-century, 1½-story mansard-roofed dwelling hidden behind the two earlier houses. The latter is distinguished by rather sophisticated detailing, such as wood roof shingles cut to resemble a patterned slate roof, while each window surround is decorated with cookie-cutter Eastlake floral designs.
58. Windy Parks Farm (1814): A 2½-story, Federal style house, five bays wide, with a gable roof and large center chimney. It was built by Israel Wilson who owned the farmland opposite as well as Quidnick Pond where he ran a fulling mill, sawmill and a gristmill prior to selling the pond for use as a reservoir to the Spragues in 1846. One of the handsomest dwellings in the township, the Israel Wilson House has a fine pedimented doorway flanked by fluted pilasters and capped by a semicircular fanlight with tracery. The central core of the building is intact, although there are several additions to the sides, but these do not mar the integrity of the facade.
59. "The Old Knight Farm" (late 18th century): 1½-story, 5-bay, gable-roofed center-chimney dwelling with a side ell. Most of the land in this vicinity changed hands between 1770 and 1799, and many of the deeds show that there were houses on some of the lots at that time. Local historians refer to this farmhouse as the "old Knight Farm," after its owner in the 1870s.

60. Ruins, Enclosures and Walls: Located close to the Quidnick Reservoir are the remains of several foundations of roughly laid stones and several stone enclosures. Stone walls line the approach road and remains of stone field enclosures crisscross the now heavily wooded property.

61. HILL FARM ROAD

House (1721): An early 18th-century, 1½-story, gambrel-roofed house with a later 18th-century side ell and with two interior chimneys. It is said to be the Beriah Wall homestead, moved to this location in 1751 from a site nearer the Flat River.

HOPE FURNACE ROAD

62. Franklin House (c. 1825): An early 19th-century, 1½-story, gable-roofed, center-chimney house, it has a simple pilastered doorway. By 1851, it was the property of J. Franklin.

HOPKINS HILL ROAD

63. Ezekiel Potter House (301 Hopkins Hill Road; 1772): A 1½-story, gable-roofed dwelling with a large center chimney and a 1-story side ell.

64. House (321 Hopkins Hill Road; c. 1840) A 1½-story, gable-roofed, Greek Revival dwelling with cornerboards, a plank cornice and doorway with an entablature and side lights.

NICHOLAS ROAD

65. Nicholas Farm (1813): At one time a working farm covering more than 1,000 acres and stretching into Connecticut, the Nicholas Farm was so large and isolated that it merited its own schoolhouse; the Nicholas District School served the family into this century, but has since burned. The farm is the best kept example of a working farmstead in Coventry, complete with farmhouse and outbuildings. The house dates from 1813; 1½-stories with a gable roof, it has a later Greek Revival ell. Also on the property is a large barn with a cupola, a swill house, a corn crib and a wellhead. All are intact; the only change being that they have all been shingled in this century. A homogeneous, architecturally intact farm complex is rare; one so well preserved is even rarer. The farm complex has been recommended for nomination to the National Register.

PERRY HILL ROAD

66. House (late 18th century): A 2½-story, 5-bay, gable-roofed dwelling with a center chimney, set well back off the main road. The 19th-century Andrews family cemetery is nearby.

## SAND HILL ROAD

67. Tavern Site: Ruins and foundation walls of substantial colonial tavern site can still be seen alongside the road. The tavern is said to have been an overnight stop for the East Greenwich to Hartford stagecoach.

## SISSON ROAD

Sisson Road was a major Indian trail and later an important early local road, secondary to the Plainfield turnpike. It is lined with very thick, beautifully laid field-stone walls.

68. Broadwall Farm (c. 1800): A 2½-story, gable-roofed, center-chimney dwelling with a 1-story side ell. The simple doorway with side lights has been moved from its central position and a bay window was inserted. There are traces of stone walls that formerly divided the fields. Numerous, very handsome, 20th-century barns and outbuildings complete the complex.
69. Sisson House (c. 1800: A small, 1½-story shingled cottage, only four bays wide with a gable roof and a center chimney. It has a plain doorway with side lights and a more recent gabled portico with trellised sides. It was built by the Sisson family for whom the road was named.

## VICTORY HIGHWAY-Route 102

70. Sheldon House: A 2½-story, 5-bay, Federal dwelling with a gable roof and a center chimney, embellished with later Greek Revival detail, as seen in the central doorway.
71. Potter-Moore House (late 18th century): A 2½-story, 5-bay house with gable roof, center chimney and a side ell. The doorway is flanked by paired fluted pilasters, topped by a semicircular wooden fan and partially enclosed by a gabled portico. This is a fine, simple example of a late 18th-century vernacular farmhouse and has been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
72. Woodlot Farm (1737): A small, 18th-century, 1½-story, center-chimney dwelling with a steeply pitched roof and several side additions. This was once part of the Benjamin Carr estate, located not too far from Carr Pond. It is presently owned by the Rhode Island artist Maxwell Mays.

## WEEKS HILL ROAD

Located less than a mile east of the village of Summit and divided by the railroad line is the area known as Weeks Hill, named after John Wickes, the first landholder (holding



title to the land since 1728). The hamlet is clustered around a brook, also named for Wickes. Although a small settlement, it did support a school which also served the village of Summit in the 19th century.

- 73. John Wickes House (1779): A 2½-story, shingled, 5-bay, gable-roofed house with a large center chimney. Built by John Wickes, a descendant of John Wickes I, who was one of Samuel Gorton's associates in the Shawomet Purchase.
- 74. Oliver Waterman Houses: Two, Greek Revival, 1½-story
- 75. buildings with gable roofs and gable dormers located diagonally across from each other; consequently one of the two buildings is really located on Camp Westwood Road. In 1851 both were owned by Oliver Waterman, who ran a store here.

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Cover Illustration: Double mill houses (c. 1848);  
Coventry Centre. (Map #13-G).